

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: : Attorney Docket No. T-5969
STACEY I. ZONES ET AL. :
Serial No.:10/698,250 : GROUP ART UNIT: 1764
Filed: October 31, 2003 :
:EXAMINER: Tam Nguyen

For: PREPARING SMALL CRYSTAL :
SSZ-32 AND ITS USE IN A :
HYDROCARBON CONVERSION: :
PROCESS :
P.O. Box 6006
San Ramon, CA 94583-0806

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

We received the office action dated Nov, 15, 2006. The Examiner has considered the claims of Group I, which applicants previously elected. Group I includes claims 1-4, 6, 7 and 9-17. Applicant has filed divisional applications to address Groups II and III.

The objections mentioned by the Examiner have been addressed. Claim 6 has been amended to recite: "A dewaxing catalyst prepared by the following steps:" The steps are those recited in claims 5.

Claim 7 has been amended to recite: "The dewaxing catalyst of claim 6, wherein the zeolite is SSZ-32X".

The claims of Group I have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Sec. 102(b) as anticipated by or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. Sec. 103(a) as obvious over Zones et al (U.S. Pat. No 5,397,454). Zones et al is directed to conversion processes such as hydrocracking, dewaxing, and catalytic cracking. There is no discussion of preparation or use of small crystal SSZ-32, as used in this invention. There is no teaching in Zones, et al of broad, lathe-like crystals from 200 to 400 Å in its SSZ-32 zeolite. The comparative Examples 4 and 5 of the instant application demonstrate the superior wax isomerization capabilities of the SSZ-32 of this invention, known as SSZ-32X, over earlier versions of SSZ-32. This is unexpected. The version of SSZ-32 taught in the instant invention is known as 'broadband' SSZ-32.

Zones et al demonstrates the superiority for isomerization of a Pd ion exchanged SSZ-32 zeolite over and SSZ-32 zeolite that is not ion exchanged. The broadband SSZ-32X of the instant invention is not contemplated in Zones et al at all.

It is the position of the applicants that this application is now in condition for allowance. The applicants request this application be passed to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



Penny L. Prater
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 34,965
Telephone: 925-842-1878
Facsimile: 925-842-2051

PLPR/kcum
January 29, 2007